

REGULAR MEETING
Sherman Township Board
October 11, 2018

Since Supervisor Middlemis-Brown was absent, Trustee Chuck Bennetts called the regular meeting of the Sherman Township Board on Thursday, October 11, 2018 to order at 6:30 PM. Board members attending were Treasurer Marilyn Kastelic, Trustee Deneen Connell, Trustee Chuck Bennetts, and Clerk Adeline Schmidt. Others in attendance were Kelly Jarvi, Bob Pieti, John Kastelic, Eric Smith, Butch Karvonen, and Keith DeForge (write-in candidate for Keweenaw County probate judge). Trustee Bennetts asked for additions to the agenda and there were none. He then invited Mr. DeForge to speak.

The regular meeting minutes from 9/13/18 were presented next. A couple of changes were suggested: "impeller" for "propeller" and that none of the park benches were sent back. Trustee Connell made a motion to accept the minutes with those changes, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes." Next the Treasurer's report was presented. Treasurer Kastelic reported that the DNR sent a letter that the Keweenaw Community Forest Company (Gina Nicholas) was withdrawing some of its land from the commercial forest and was given a penalty of \$245,301. The next day a lawyer dropped off a check for that amount. Of that, Treasurer Kastelic dispersed over half to the State of Michigan, \$40,970 to Keweenaw County, over \$30,000 to the schools, and the Township kept \$36,535.20 (\$27,816.82 to the General Fund and \$8,718.38 to the Fire Department Millage). A discussion followed about the Township having too much just sitting in the General Fund and Trustee Bennetts suggested the Board think about putting some of it into a CD. Treasurer Kastelic said that some of what was sent to the County might be returned to the Township. After more discussion about the deposit, the Clerk made a motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted, seconded by Trustee Connell, and all votes were "ayes." The monthly budget review was presented next and some of the entries discussed. The bills were presented next. The reduced cost for some of the street lights with LED bulbs was noted; but since this month's bill reflected a 2-month discount, the actual rate reduction will not be seen until next month. Trustee Connell made a motion to pay the bills, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

GENERAL FUND

Rob Middlemis-Brown	Supervisor	October salary	375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Marilyn Kastelic	Treasurer	October salary	375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Adeline Schmidt	Clerk	October salary	375.00-22.50-5.44	347.06
Charles Bennetts	Trustee	Per Diem	50.00-3.00-0.73	046.27
Deneen Connell	Trustee	Per Diem	50.00-3.00-0.73	046.27
JT Reno	Water Plant Operator(21 days)	Deputy Treasurer 2.5hrs		256.36
Charles Bennetts	Sewer PO, Grounds Main., WPO (9 days)			416.47
Rob Middlemis-Brown	Fire Chief - 10/2018			046.27
Robert Pieti	Sewer Plant Operator training			084.22
Ontonagon Co. REA	Office (45.46), 17 st. lights (129.21), fire hall (66.10)			240.77
A T & T	Fire hall (54.18)			054.18
MI Municipal League	Workers. Comp insurance readjustment			067.00
State of MI	Unemployment insurance			044.80
Cardmember Service	Refunds from FD, RADA for resale, office supplies			3,541.34
Water Fund	Hydrant rental -10/2018			200.00
Erhart Assessing	Assessor fee - 10/2018			370.00
Kelly Jarvi	Deputy Clerk - 8 hrs.			080.00
Krans Oil Company, Inc.	Gas & diesel for FD and grounds			130.03

FIRE DEPARTMENT

General Fund	Pay cr. cd.- RADA for resale, lens inserts, parts	3,110.67
Pomasl Fire Equipment, Inc.	5 gallons Chemguard	138.00

WATER FUND

Ontonagon Co. REA	Electricity – Water plant & Hall– (1291 KWH)	264.63
General Fund	WPO salary, employer contributions	373.92
White Water Assoc., Inc.	Water tests - E. coli (9/17 & 9/24/18)	051.00
2018 Water Supply Savings	\$9/month water rate increase (9/14 & 10/12/18)	513.00
JT Reno	Seminar - hotel 2 nights, mileage, sample postage	292.39
RRI Water Savings	\$6/month water rate increase & 1/4 of annual saved	1,029.50

SEWER FUND

Ontonagon County REA	Electricity – Sewer (1378 KWH)	280.01
General Fund	SPO salary, employer contributions	329.08
Tony Burcar	Clean septic lines, completion of 200 ft. drain tile line	8,475.00
Bay Electric	4 pumps pulled and unclogged - INV 11771	280.00

RRI SEWER SAVINGS

Sewer Fund Checking	Completion of 200 ft. drain tile line, INV1062	7,775.00
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CORRESPONDENCE: The Township received a report from the DEQ on the dredging of the sands project near Buffalo Reef. It will probably take place next spring. If the DEQ sends out a PDF, it will be placed on the Township's website.

The Supervisor received an email from Keweenaw County Road Commission asking the Township Board to send them a letter opposing Senate Bill 396 which would allow fully loaded logging trucks to use gravel roads during spring weight restriction time as long as they are bonded for \$2000 a mile. After much discussion, most Board members agreed it should be opposed. Since a letter could be sent expressing the Board's opposition, no resolution was passed.

PREVIOUS BUSINESS: The parts needed to finish the park benches have not been received. They may have to be moved before the snowy weather sets in.

The "Welcome to Sherman Township" signs were put up by the Keweenaw Co. Road Commission on the three major roads into the Township. Everyone thought they looked really nice. Some expressed surprise at where the Township boundary is on the Gay-Lac La Belle Road. The signs were paid for out of the PA 48 Fund.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: At the last pancake breakfast the Fire Department made about \$854 from the breakfast tickets, the eggs, and the boot collection. A Micro Grant application (up to \$50,000) will be submitted in October to FEMA. It will be used to upgrade the pumper, adding a compressed air system for foam, potentially adding 10 years to the useful life of the truck. It will also be used to replace the air tanks which will be reaching their expiration date soon. The prescription lenses for three members to use in the SCBA's (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus) have been received as well as the flame-resistant t-shirts that were ordered.

WATER DEPARTMENT: Bob Pieti relayed Water Plant Operator JT Reno's report because he could not be at the meeting. Everything seems to be okay and a water sample was sent in the day before. The Supervisor had given Trustee Bennetts an update on progress on the Water Well Project. No new estimates or bids from well drillers had been received. They all appear to be very busy. Once bids are received, funding will be sought, but probably not until next spring. After attending a water training seminar recently, JT reported to the Water/Sewer Advisory Committee that the DEQ is coming out with a new mandate concerning the composition of water pipes going into homes. If the composition is not known, they must be dug up to find out what they are made of and replaced if they are galvanized or lead. Who will be responsible for the expense is yet to be determined. There is some opposition to the mandate-- working to change it. The DEQ is planning to have it in effect within 4 years. Apparently there is a camera (for \$3,160) available that can be used in the pipes to determine what they are made of. The DEQ is not concerned if there is galvanized pipe within the house, only up to the house. JT also told the W/S Committee that he was told the Sherman Township water system did not have any PFA's (perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances), but a recent newspaper article stated that trace amounts were found in the Sherman Township system. JT will seek out a water quality report to figure out what is more accurate.

SEWER DEPARTMENT: Bob Pieti became the sewer operation technician on October 1st. He reported that pump #1 has stopped or is jammed up. Today he called a repairman to fix it. Pump #2 appears to be handling the situation okay. He also had cleared cattails and weeds out of the ditches around the field and by the culvert. Tony Burcar was out today to check out the repairs that need to be done and to order parts.

WATER/SEWER ADVISORY COMMITTEE: The Committee is meeting next Wednesday, October 17th at 6:00 PM. All residents are welcome at the meetings. They are held the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM. Minutes of the committee meetings are on the Township's website:

www.keweenawcountyonline.org/, "township officials"-Sherman Township

The Committee's purpose is to provide ideas and direction on both systems--water and sewer--from the users. At the recent meeting JT had reported that the DEQ will be requiring more water tests beginning next year, increasing expenses.

NEW BUSINESS: There will be a General Election November 6, 2018. The Public Accuracy Test to check out the equipment will be October 29th at 3 PM. Absentee ballot applications are available.

The MI Dept. of the Treasury has no record of the Board ever adopting a policy for "Public Inspection of Records". The Supervisor had found a basic policy online. It was presented. Trustee Bennetts made a motion that the Board adopts the Public Inspection Policy, Treasurer Kastelic seconded, and all votes were "ayes."

An AMAR review had been done by the MI Dept. of Treasury. They listed corrective actions that needed to be done: Land Value Maps did not identify rates and sales were not included, 12 parcels had land adjustments without reasons, and a couple of parcels with 2017 building permits did not have new construction included in the 2018 assessment. Supervisor Middlemis-Brown submitted a corrective action plan on 9/28/18 to the MI Treasury Department.

Since there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:48 PM. The next regular Township meeting will be on Thursday, November 8, 2018 at 6:30 PM.